

PROJECT EXILE PRESS RELEASE

February 13, 2001

RE: UNITED STATES v. ZORAIDA RIVERA

United States Attorney Denise E. O'Donnell announces today that ZORAIDA RIVERA, age 26, of Rochester, New York, was sentenced by the Honorable David G. Larimer, Chief United States District Judge, to a 7 ½ year term of incarceration to be followed by three years of supervised release after pleading guilty on September 18, 2000 to being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bret A. Puscheck stated that on May 21, 2000, Rivera unlawfully possessed a Davis Industries .32 caliber semi-automatic pistol, Model P32, after previously being convicted of a felony.

The conviction was the culmination of a Project Exile investigation on the part of the Rochester Violent Crimes Task Force, composed of law enforcement personnel from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Francis Christiano, the Rochester Police Department, Special Investigation Section under the direction of Police Chief Robert Duffy, the United States Marshal's Service under the direction of U.S. Marshal John P. McCaffrey, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office under the

direction of Sheriff Andrew Meloni, New York State Police under the direction of Major Peter Lawrence, and the New York State Attorney General's Office under the direction of Deputy Chief Richard Soule.

Project Exile is a special initiative announced in the City of Rochester on September 29, 1998 to end the culture of violence in the Rochester community. Under Project Exile, cases involving illegal firearms are prosecuted in Federal Court to take advantage of the stiffer penalties under the Federal gun laws.
